THE WORLD'S GREATEST COMIC MAGAZINE!
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IND.
Fantastic Four,
21 DEC.
MARVEL COMICS GROUP 12¢
FIGHTING EACH OTHER, UNDER THE SINISTER SPELL OF "THE HATE-MONGER!"
(DON'T DARE REVEAL HIS TRUE IDENTITY AFTER READING THIS TALE!!)
THIS ISSUE'S GREAT GUEST STAR... "SGT. FURY" MORE EXCITING THAN EVER!!
A BOOK-LENGTH BOMBSHELL!

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THE FABULOUS FANTASTIC FOUR TURN AGAINST EACH OTHER, BECAUSE OF...
THE HATE-MONGER!
THE EDITORS PREDICT THAT THIS IS THE MOST UNUSUAL, THOUGHT-PROVOKING TALE YOU WILL READ THIS SEASON! WE BELIEVE YOU WILL AGREE!
WRITTEN BY..... STAN LEE
DRAWN BY...... JACK KIRBY
INKED BY....... GEORGE BELL
LETTERED BY.... ART SIMEK
DESTINED TO BECOME A FANTASTIC FOUR CLASSIC!
X-488
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IN HIS SKYSCRAPER PLANETARIUM ROOM, ONE OF THE WORLD'S GREATEST SCIENTIFIC BRAINS PUZZLES OVER AN UNUSUAL PROBLEM... AND SO WE LAUNCH THE NEWEST, MOST UNFORGETTABLE FANTASTIC FOUR THRILLER...
STRANGE... THE TIDES ALL OVER EARTH ARE NOT FOLLOWING THEIR NORMAL PATTERNS! CAN SOMETHING HAVE AFFECTED THE MOON'S GRAVITATIONAL PULL?
SUDDENLY, THE WALLS OF THE HUGE ROOM ARE SHARPLY JOLTED!
WHAT'S HAPPENING?? THAT IMPACT JUST UPSET MY TIDESCOPE MEASURING DEVICE!
AND, JUST A FEW ROOMS AWAY, A HIGH-SPIRITED TEEN-AGER WHILES AWAY SOME SPARE TIME IN A TYPICAL MANNER...
I KNOW THIS IS JUST KID STUFF... BUT I GET A REAL KICK OUT OF TOSSING FIRE-DARTS AT THAT SWELL-HEADED SPIDER-MAN!
BUT THEN, THE SAME TYPE OF POUNDING JOLT SHAKES JOHNNY STORM'S ROOM, ALSO...
HEY! WHAT IN BLAZES IS GOIN' ON???
WHILE IN THE PRIVACY OF HER OWN QUARTERS, THE THIRD MEMBER OF AMERICA'S MOST COLORFUL QUARTET IS PROVING THAT A GIRL IS A GIRL, EVEN WHEN SHE'S A FULL-FLEDGED PARTNER OF THE FANTASTIC FOUR...
I COULD SPEND HOURS TRYING ON THESE GORGEOUS FASHION WIGS! I ALWAYS WONDERED HOW I'D LOOK WITH BLACK HAIR!
IF THEY EVER WANT TO FILM A SEQUEL TO CLEOPATRA, AND IF LIZ TAYLOR IS TOO BUSY...HMMMM...
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AT THAT MOMENT, OUR DAY-DREAMING BEAUTY ALSO FEELS THE IMPACT WHICH SHAKES THE VERY WALLS!
WHAT ON EARTH--?!! IT-IT FEELS LIKE IT'S COMING FROM BEN'S QUARTERS!
BAM!
AND SUE'S GUESS PROVES TO BE CORRECT!
WHAAM
AT LAST I MADE MYSELF A PUNCHING BAG THAT'S GOT SOME OOMPH TO IT!
POW!
BEN! WHOA, BIG FELLA--HOLD IT! YOU'RE UPSETTING SOME OF MY MOST SENSITIVE INSTRUMENTS!
I MIGHTA KNOWN IT WAS OL' MUSCLE-BRAIN HIMSELF!
WHAT'S WRONG, BEN? YOU'RE SMASHING THAT STEEL PUNCHING BAG AS THOUGH YOU'RE TRYING TO PUNCH IT OUT OF THE BUILDING!
SO WHAT?!! I'M SO COTTON-PICKIN' MAD I'VE GOTTA DO SOMETHING TO LET OFF STEAM! I'VE BEEN READIN' THE PAPERS FOR THE PAST HOUR --IT'S ENOUGH TO MAKE ANYONE BLOW HIS TOP!
AND IF I STILL GOTTA SPELL IT OUT FOR YOU, JUST TAKE A SQUINT AT SOME OF THOSE HEADLINES!
TROOPS CALLED OUT!
BATTLE RAGES IN FAR EAST!
THAT CRUMB WHO CALLS HIMSELF THE HATE-MONGER HAS BEEN CAUSIN' TROUBLE WHEREVER HE GOES, AND NOBODY CAN STOP HIM BECAUSE HE'S TOO SMART TO BREAK ANY LAWS!
HE'S THE MOST DANGEROUS TYPE OF MENACE! HE PREACHES CLASS HATRED, RACE HATRED, RELIGIOUS HATRED!
BUT HIS ACTIVITIES DON'T CONCERN THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
STAR-BULLETIN
HATE-MONGER CAUSES MOB TO RIOT IN CITY!
MANY HURT
WITHIN A VERY FEW MINUTES, SUE STORM IS DESTINED TO LEARN HOW COMPLETELY WRONG HER CASUAL COMMENT IS!
A CREEP LIKE THE HATE-MONGER IS FREE TO SAY WHAT HE WANTS TO, BUT IF I EVER WHUMPED HIM ONE, THEY'D SLAP ME IN THE POKEY! HOW ABOUT THAT!
DON'T WORRY, BEN! HE'LL GET WHAT'S COMING TO HIM SOONER OR LATER! BIGOTS ALWAYS DO!
LET'S GO FOR A WALK, GANG! IT'LL GET OUR MINDS OFF THAT ROTTEN WINDBAG!
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AND SO, DRESSED IN STREET CLOTHES, AND LOOKING AS INCONSPICUOUS AS ANY GROUP CAN WHEN THEY'RE WITH THE LUMBERING THING, THE FF BEGIN TO STROLL ALONG MANHATTAN'S EAST SIDE...
BOY! IF I EVER GOT MY HANDS ON THAT HATE-MONGER'S SCRAWNY HIDE, I'D REALLY GIVE 'IM SOMETHING TO YELL ABOUT!
I KNOW HOW YOU FEEL, BEN-- BUT HIS TYPE USUALLY DOESN'T GET VERY FAR IN A FREE NATION LIKE OURS!
OH NO?? WHAT DO YOU THINK THAT IS, CHUM-- A P.T.A. MEETING ??!
LONG LIVE THE HATE-MONGER! HE'LL CLEAN UP THIS COUNTRY FOR US!
DOWN WITH ALL FOREIGNERS! DOWN WITH EVERYBODY WHO DISAGREES WITH US! HAIL TO THE HATE-MONGER!
AND, LOOKING DOWN UPON THE CROWD FROM HIS SPEAKERS' PLATFORM, THE TALL, MASKED FORM OF THE HATE-MONGER STIRS HIS LISTENERS TO A FEVER-PITCH OF UNTHINKING EMOTION!
THOSE WHO ARE NOT WITH US ARE AGAINST US! THEY MUST BE DESTROYED!
WE MUST DRIVE ALL THE FOREIGNERS BACK WHERE THEY CAME FROM! WE MUST SHOW NO MERCY TO THOSE WE HATE!
REED, IT'S UNBELIEVABLE! HE SEEMS TO HAVE THE CROWD IN A TRANCE! THEY-THEY'RE ACTUALLY AGREEING WITH HIS UNAMERICAN SENTIMENTS!
THE HATE-MONGER'S RIGHT! KICK THE FOREIGNERS OUT OF OUR NEIGHBOR-HOOD!
NO! STOP! I AM A CITIZEN-- THE SAME AS YOU! ARE YOU ALL MAD?!
THE CROWD MUSTA POPPED ITS CORK! BUT IF A RIOT IS WHAT THEY WANT, HERE'S WHERE THEY'RE GONNA GET IT!
4

WITH ONE MIGHTY LUNGE, THE THING PLOWS INTO THE GRANDSTAND SURROUNDING THE HATE-MONGER WITH THE FORCE AND FURY OF A RUNAWAY PILE-DRIVER!
JUST WAIT RIGHT THERE, BUTTERCUP! I'LL GET TO YOU IN A MINUTE--AS SOON AS I TENDERLY TAKE CARE OF YOUR LOVABLE LITTLE BULLY BOYS!
GOOD OL' BENJAMIN! HE BEAT US TO IT, BUT THERE'S STILL TIME FOR US TO LEND A HAND! LET'S GO, JOHNNY BOY!
YAYY! ACTION AT LAST!
WHY DOESN'T THE HATE-MONGER SEEM WORRIED?? I DON'T LIKE IT!
EXACTLY ONE SECOND LATER, SUE'S QUESTION IS DRAMATICALLY ANSWERED, AS THE MASKED FIGURE TURNS A STRANGE GREEN RAY ON THE FANTASTIC FOUR!
STAND FAST, ALL OF YOU! NONE CAN RESIST MY ALL-POWERFUL H-RAY!
AND, AS THE SHIMMERING RAY BATHES THE FOUR FIGURES, THEY STOP IN THEIR TRACKS...STUNNED, OVERWHELMED BY THE UNFAMILIAR SENSATIONS FLOODING THROUGH THEM!
THERE! THIS IS THE ACID TEST! IF MY HATRED RAY WILL WORK AGAINST THE FANTASTIC FOUR, THEN NOBODY CAN RESIST IT--NOBODY WILL STOP MY MASTER PLAN!
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NO SOONER DOES THE H-RAY FADE AWAY THEN THE FABULOUS FOURSOME BEGIN TO FIGHT AMONG THEMSELVES! NOT THE GOOD NATURED BICKERING WHICH THEIR FANS KNOW SO WELL, BUT A DIFFERENT TYPE OF CONFLICT, FILLED WITH HOSTILITY AND RAW HATRED!
WHO ASKED YOU TO BUTT IN, YOU SKINNY, EGG-HEADED CLOWN!
YOU DON'T SCARE ME, UGLY! I CAN ALWAYS HANDLE AN APE WHO DOES HIS THINKING WITH HIS FISTS!
STEP ASIDE, USELESS! I'M GONNA TEACH BOTH OF THOSE BUMS A LESSON!
WHO ARE YOU CALLING "USELESS", YOU CONCEITED INCORRIGIBLE LITTLE BRAT!
OWW! WHEN I PUT YOU AWAY, I'LL CLOBBER THAT FLAMING FREAK FOR TURNING THE SIDEWALK UNDER MY FEET INTO HOT TAR!
IF THERE'S ANY "PUTTING AWAY" TO BE DONE, STUPID, I'LL DO IT-- LIKE THIS!
THERE! MAYBE A BATH IN STICKY TAR WILL TEACH YOU NOT TO MESS AROUND WITH YOUR BETTERS!
MISTER, YOU BETTER START RUNNING NOW, BECAUSE WHEN I GET A HOLD OF YOU...
SO THE THING IS GONNA CLOBBER ME, HUH? NOT AFTER I TRAP HIM INSIDE OF THIS FLAMING LASSO OF MINE!
I'M THRU PROTECTING THAT UNGRATEFUL KID BROTHER OF MINE! FROM NOW ON I'LL TREAT HIM LIKE ANY OTHER FRESH TEEN-AGER!
HEY! WHAT THE--! OH, IT MUST BE THE INVISIBLE GIRL --THE ORIGINAL MISS PHONY OF 1963!
TRY THAT AGAIN, AND I'LL FORGET YOU'RE MY SISTER-- WHICH WOULD BE A PLEASURE!
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HAH! IT TAKES MORE THAN A MESS OF STICKY TAR TO STOP THE THING! AND NOW...
I WAS HOPING YOU'D TRY ME AGAIN, LOUDMOUTH...
...BECAUSE I'VE BEEN ITCHING TO DO THIS TO YOU FOR A LONG TIME! DO YOU READ ME, FATHEAD?
YOU'VE BEEN ITCHIN', ALL RIGHT, BUT ONLY BECAUSE YOU'RE A FLEA-BITTEN FREAK! YOU COULDN'T SCARE A SECOND-HAND BARBIE DOLL!
JUST WAIT'LL MY HANDS DRY! I'LL PULVERIZE THE TWO OF YOU!
SO YOU THOUGHT YOU COULD HOLD ONTO ME, HUH? WELL, I'VE GOT NEWS FOR YA, BONEHEAD...
AFTER I FINISH THIS LITTLE CAPER, YOU'LL TIP YOUR HAT BEFORE YOU EVEN MENTION MY NAME!
NOW JUST STAY PUT TILL I BRING YOU SOME COMPANY!
THOUGHT I FORGOT ABOUT YOU, HUH?
GET YOUR CLAMMY MEATHOOKS OFF ME, YOU GORILLA!
THIS IS MY CHANCE TO TEACH ALL THREE OF THEM A LESSON!
SURE, SONNY, SURE! I'M GONNA LET GO OF BOTH OF YOU!
I FIGURE THIS IS ALL YOU'RE GOOD FOR ANYWAY! AFTER THIS, THEY'LL CALL YOU TWO THE HUMAN SLINGSHOTS!
IF I CAN JUST REACH THAT 'HYDRANT IN TIME!
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE DAY THE FANTASTIC FOUR WOULD FIGHT EACH OTHER--AND MEAN IT!

THERE! THEY DIDN'T EXPECT ANYONE TO UNTIE OUR CONCEITED LEADER'S HANDS BEFORE THE THING COULD LET GO. NOW, GOOD RIDDANCE TO ALL OF THEM!
LOOK OUT!
WHO'S THE WISE GUY??!
YEEEOW
FINALLY, AFTER THE THREE REGAIN THEIR BALANCE.
I HAD IT! FROM NOW ON YOU CAN GET YOURSELF A NEW STOOGE! I'M CUTTIN' OUT!
ME TOO! YOU CAN TAKE THE FANTASTIC FOUR AND SHOVE IT DOWN A GOPHER HOLE FOR ALL I CARE! I'M SICK OF LOOKIN' AT YOUR UGLY PANS!
THAT GOES DOUBLE FOR ME!
I'M GONNA VISIT ALICIA AND FORGET I EVER KNEW THOSE CREEPS!
WHO NEEDS 'EM! THEY'VE BEEN LIVING OFF MY BRAINS FOR YEARS! I'M THROUGH PLAYING NURSEMAID TO ANYONE!
IF I NEVER HEAR THAT CORNY NAME FANTASTIC FOUR AGAIN, IT'LL BE TOO SOON!
THEY FORGOT ALL ABOUT ME-- AND THAT'S JUST THE WAY I LIKE IT! I MUST HAVE BEEN MAD TO THINK I LOVED REED RICHARDS-- HE'S JUST A BIG ZERO!
DID YOU SEE THAT! THE FANTASTIC FOUR SPLIT UP! THEY FORGOT ALL ABOUT THE HATE-MONGER!
AND, WHAT OF THE MAN WHO CAUSED THE INCREDIBLE SEQUENCE OF EVENTS YOU HAVE JUST WITNESSED...?
I'VE DONE IT! NOW, WITH THE FF SAFELY UNDER MY SPELL OF HATE, WE CAN PROCEED!
BEFORE I'M THROUGH, ALL OF EARTH WILL BE IN THE IRON GRIP OF THE HATE-MONGER!

AND SO, THE MASTER OF HATE MAKES HIS FIRST BIG MISTAKE... HE CONSIDERS THE FANTASTIC FOUR COMPLETELY DEFEATED, AND FORGETS ABOUT THEM! BUT, MINUTES LATER, AT THE ENTRANCE TO THE FAMOUS BAXTER BUILDING, HEADQUARTERS OF THE FF...
WHAT'S GOING ON HERE?
MR. RICHARDS! AM I GLAD TO SEE YOU, SIR!
SOME MADMAN IS TEARING THE LOBBY APART BECAUSE HE CAN'T GET UP TO YOUR HEAD-QUARTERS!
WHO SAYS NO ONE'S ADMITTED TO REED RICHARD'S FLOOR WITHOUT PERMISSION?? YOU'RE NOT MESSIN' AROUND WITH A KID HERE!
QUICK! CALL THE POLICE! WE NEED HELP!
POLICE NOTHING! SEND FOR THE NATIONAL GUARD!
POW!
BAM
THEN, SUDDENLY, A FAMILIAR FACE APPEARS FROM THE MIDST OF THE MELEE...
RICHARDS, YOU OL' HOUND DOG! CALL OFF YOUR WATCHDOGS BEFORE I MUZZLE 'EM!
THIS IS ONE HECKUVA WAY TO TREAT AN OLD ARMY BUDDY!
STARTER
NICK FURY! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE THE END OF THE WAR!
THAT'S YOUR LOSS, PAL! NOW TELL ME WHERE TO DROP THESE SLEEPIN' BEAUTIES!
THEN, YOU 'N ME HAVE SOME IMPORTANT BUSINESS TO DISCUSS!
MINUTES LATER, IN THE CONFERENCE ROOM OF THE FF'S SKYSCRAPER HEADQUARTERS...
WHY DIDN'T YOU TELL THEM DOWNSTAIRS THAT YOU'RE WITH THE CIA NOW SARGE? IT WOULD HAVE MADE THINGS A LOT EASIER!
US SECRET INTELLIGENCE JOES DON'T GO BROADCASTING OUR IDENTITIES, PAL!
AND IT'S COLONEL FURY NOW! AIN'T THAT SOMETHIN'?? CAN YOU PICTURE ME BEING ONE OF THE BIG BRASS??!
BETCHA WISH YOU COULDA LIT MY CIGARETTE THIS WAY THAT DAY AT MASSACRE MOUNTAIN, HUH?*
* SEE SGT. FURY #3, "MIDNIGHT AT MASSACRE MOUNTAIN!" —EDITOR—
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OKAY, FURY! I KNOW A COLONEL IN THE CIA DOESN'T COME TO VISIT ME JUST TO TALK ABOUT THE WEATHER! IF YOU'VE SOMETHING TO SAY, SPIT IT OUT!
SURE, BIG MAN-- SURE!
SOMETHING'S BUGGIN' HIM! THIS AINT THE REED RICHARDS I KNEW! HE'S CHANGED!
I WANNA TALK TO YOU ABOUT SOME TROUBLE IN SOUTH AMERICA... IN THE REPUBLIC OF SAN GUSTO!
KEEP TALKING. I'M JUST SHUTTING OFF SOME NUCLEAR ACTIVATOR'S SO I CAN HEAR YOU BETTER!
HEY! WHAT'S WITH THE MAD SCIENTIST BIT?
"WELL, UNCLE SAMMY HAS BEEN POURING BILLIONS INTO SAN GUSTO TO MAKE IT A SHOW-PLACE OF DEMOCRACY! BUT SUDDENLY, EVERYTHING'S GONE NUTS DOWN THERE! A REVOLUTION STARTED, AND IT LOOKS LIKE THE GOVERNMENT'S GONNA COLLAPSE! IF THAT HAPPENS, IT COULD UPSET THE BALANCE OF POWER IN SOUTH AMERICA! SO IT MUSTN'T HAPPEN, DIG?"
YANKEE GO HOME
I'M WAY AHEAD OF YOU! I'LL BE THERE BY MORNING!
YOU? BUT WHAT ABOUT THE REST OF THE FF?
WHO NEEDS 'EM? FROM NOW ON, I WORK ALONE!
TO HANGARS
THEN, REACHING TO ROOFTOP LAUNCHING PADS...
WHAT ARE YOU WAITING FOR, FURY? THERE'S ROOM FOR YOU IN THE POGO PLANE!
I'LL, EH, JOIN YOU LATER, PAL! I'VE GOT SOMETHING ELSE TO TAKE CARE OF HERE, FIRST!
SUIT YOURSELF! JUST DON'T POKE AROUND IN ANY OF THOSE ROOMS. MY ALARM DEVICES WILL ATOMIZE YOU IF YOU TRY IT!
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STOPPING A REVOLUTION IN SOME POSTAGE STAMP COUNTRY DOESN'T SOUND LIKE A JOB FOR THE FF! WHAT MADE FURY COME TO ME? WELL, WHAT'S THE DIFFERENCE? IT'LL GIVE ME SOMETHING TO DO, ANYWAY!
I WAS AFRAID OF THIS! THE HATE-MONGER MUST HAVE GOTTEN TO THE FF ALREADY! I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO BREAK HIS SPELL!!
JUST THEN, IN ALICIA'S STUDIO APARTMENT...
YOU'RE SO POWERFUL, SO NOBLE, BEN! I LOVE DOING STATUES OF YOU!
HOLD IT, BABY! THAT'S THE POGO PLANE UP THERE!
REED MUST BE SNEAKIN' OFF SOMEWHERE WITHOUT TELLIN' US! SIT TIGHT, DOLL! I'LL BE BACK LATER!
BEN, WHAT'S WRONG? WHY DO YOU SPEAK OF REED WITH SUCH HATRED IN YOUR VOICE?? -BEN--!
AND, A FEW BLOCKS AWAY, IN FRONT OF A SPORTS CAR SHOWROOM...
WHAT'S EVERYONE LOOKIN' AT??
HEY! IT'S OUR POGO PLANE! THAT SHIP BELONGS TO THE FOUR OF US! NOBODY'S TAKIN' OFF IN IT WITHOUT TELLIN' ME!
FIRST, THE POGO PLANE MISSES US BY A WHISKER, AND NOW THE TORCH ALMOST SINGES OUR HAIR! I'M GONNA GO BACK TO BEIN' A TEST PILOT-- IT'S SAFER!
I'LL FLY TO HEADQUARTERS AND SEE WHAT'S GOIN' ON! AND I'D BETTER LIKE WHAT I SEE!
FLAME ON!
11

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for $5.00 to $20.00 EXTRA?
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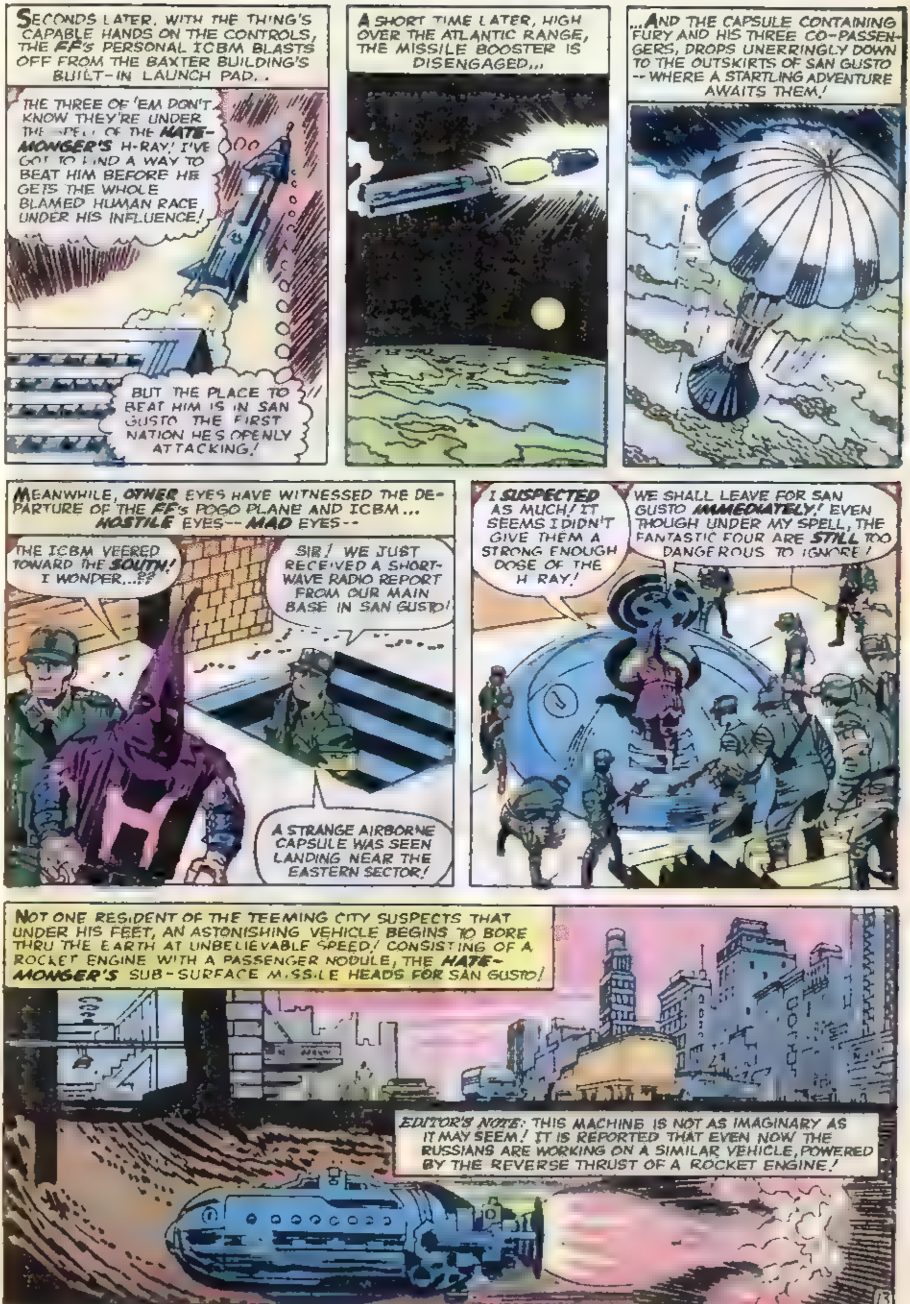
AND, IN A FASHIONABLE DRESS SALON
HOLD STILL, MISS STORM! THIS SEAM NEEDS TAKING IN!
THE POGO PLANE!
LOOK! ONE OF OUR NEWEST CREATIONS IS RUNNING DOWN THE HALL BY ITSELF!
IT'S EVEN PAYING FOR ITSELF!
MY FEMALE CURIOSITY WON'T LET ME SLEEP UNTIL I FIND OUT WHO'S IN THE PLANE --AND WHY??!
A QUARTER OF AN HOUR LATER, AFTER INTRODUCTIONS AND EXPLANATIONS HAVE BEEN MADE..
YOU MEAN THAT SKINNY NIT-WIT TOOK OFF FOR SAN GUSTO WITHOUT US??
WHAT'S HE TRYIN' TO DO? HOG ALL THE GLORY FOR HIMSELF??
ALL I GOTTA DO IS KEEP MY TRAP SHUT, AND THEY'LL BE FIGHTIN' TO GO TO SAN GUSTO, TOO!
WHY SHOULD HE HAVE A SOUTH AMERICAN VACATION AND NOT ME??
ANYTHING HE CAN DO, I CAN DO BETTER!
WHAT ARE YOU SITTIN' THERE WITH A CHICKEN-SCRATCHIN' SMILE ON YOUR PAN FOR?? I GOT A GOOD MIND TO--
SHUDDUP! WHO SAYS YOU'VE GOT MIND?!! WHEN YOU TANGLE WITH ME, SMILEY YOU'RE TANGLING WITH THE GOVERNMENT!
RICHARDS TOLD ME HE DIDN'T WANT YOU IN SAN GUSTO! BUT I'VE GOT THE AUTHORITY TO TAKE YOU THERE ANYWAY IF I WANT TO!
PERFECT! ONCE I HAVE ALL FOUR OF THEM IN SAN GUSTO, THINGS'LL REALLY START POPPIN'!
DON'T JUST STAND THERE, BUSTER! PACK YOUR TOOTHBRUSH! WE'RE LEAVIN' NOW!
YEAH! YOU CAN'T STOP US!
HE WOULDN'T DARE!
12


SECONDS LATER, WITH THE THING'S CAPABLE HANDS ON THE CONTROLS, THE FF's PERSONAL ICBM BLASTS OFF FROM THE BAXTER BUILDING'S BUILT-IN LAUNCH PAD..
THE THREE OF 'EM DON'T KNOW THEY'RE UNDER THE SPELL OF THE HATE-MONGER'S H-RAY! I'VE GOT TO FIND A WAY TO BEAT HIM BEFORE HE GETS THE WHOLE BLAMED HUMAN RACE UNDER HIS INFLUENCE!
BUT THE PLACE TO BEAT HIM IS IN SAN GUSTO THE FIRST NATION HE'S OPENLY ATTACKING!
A SHORT TIME LATER, HIGH OVER THE ATLANTIC RANGE, THE MISSILE BOOSTER IS DISENGAGED...
...AND THE CAPSULE CONTAINING FURY AND HIS THREE CO-PASSENGERS, DROPS UNERRINGLY DOWN TO THE OUTSKIRTS OF SAN GUSTO -- WHERE A STARTLING ADVENTURE AWAITS THEM!
MEANWHILE, OTHER EYES HAVE WITNESSED THE DEPARTURE OF THE FF's POGO PLANE AND ICBM... HOSTILE EYES-- MAD EYES--
THE ICBM VEERED TOWARD THE SOUTH! I WONDER...??
SIR! WE JUST RECEIVED A SHORT-WAVE RADIO REPORT FROM OUR MAIN BASE IN SAN GUSTO!
A STRANGE AIRBORNE CAPSULE WAS SEEN LANDING NEAR THE EASTERN SECTOR!
I SUSPECTED AS MUCH! IT SEEMS I DIDN'T GIVE THEM A STRONG ENOUGH DOSE OF THE H RAY!
WE SHALL LEAVE FOR SAN GUSTO IMMEDIATELY! EVEN THOUGH UNDER MY SPELL, THE FANTASTIC FOUR ARE STILL TOO DANGEROUS TO IGNORE!
NOT ONE RESIDENT OF THE TEEMING CITY SUSPECTS THAT UNDER HIS FEET, AN ASTONISHING VEHICLE BEGINS TO BORE THRU THE EARTH AT UNBELIEVABLE SPEED! CONSISTING OF A ROCKET ENGINE WITH A PASSENGER NODULE, THE HATE-MONGER'S SUB-SURFACE MISSILE HEADS FOR SAN GUSTO!
EDITOR'S NOTE: THIS MACHINE IS NOT AS IMAGINARY AS IT MAY SEEM! IT IS REPORTED THAT EVEN NOW THE RUSSIANS ARE WORKING ON A SIMILAR VEHICLE, POWERED BY THE REVERSE THRUST OF A ROCKET ENGINE!
13

MASS OF EARTH...
THE SEA ABOVE...
FASTER! FASTER! WE MUST DESTROY THE FANTASTIC FOUR IN SAN GUSTO!
FINALLY, REACHING THEIR OBJECTIVE, THE MIGHTY MACHINE POINTS ITS NOSE SURFACEWARD,
ON THE OUTSKIRTS OF SAN GUSTO, THICK STREAMS OF CHEMICAL COOLANT POUR
THE ROCKET, COOLING THE SURROUNDING TERRAIN WHICH HAS BECOME WHITE HOT BECAUSE OF THE POWERFUL MISSILE'S THRUST!
WITHIN THE HOUR, WE SHALL BE ABLE TO
THE GROUND AGAIN!
NEXT TIME I MEET THE FANTASTIC FOUR, I SHALL BE SURE TO GIVE THEM A LETHAL DOSE OF MY HATE GAS!
MORE SLIP-UPS SUCH AS THIS!
4
AND THEN, AFTER THE GROUND HAS COOLED...
FOLLOW ME! WE MUST RACE TO THE UNDERGROUND COMMAND POST AND PREPARE FOR THE ATTACK BY THE FANTASTIC FOUR WHICH IS CERTAIN TO COME!
MEANWHILE, SOME DISTANCE AWAY, THE REBEL FORCES ARE GATHERING LARGE ARTILLERY SHELLS FOR THEIR ASSAULT UPON THE SAN GUSTO GOVERNMENT...
EVERYTHING GOES OUR WAY! SOON WE SHALL CONTROL SAN GUSTO!
THAT IS ENOUGH SHELLS FOR NOW! LET US REJOIN OUR FORCES!
14

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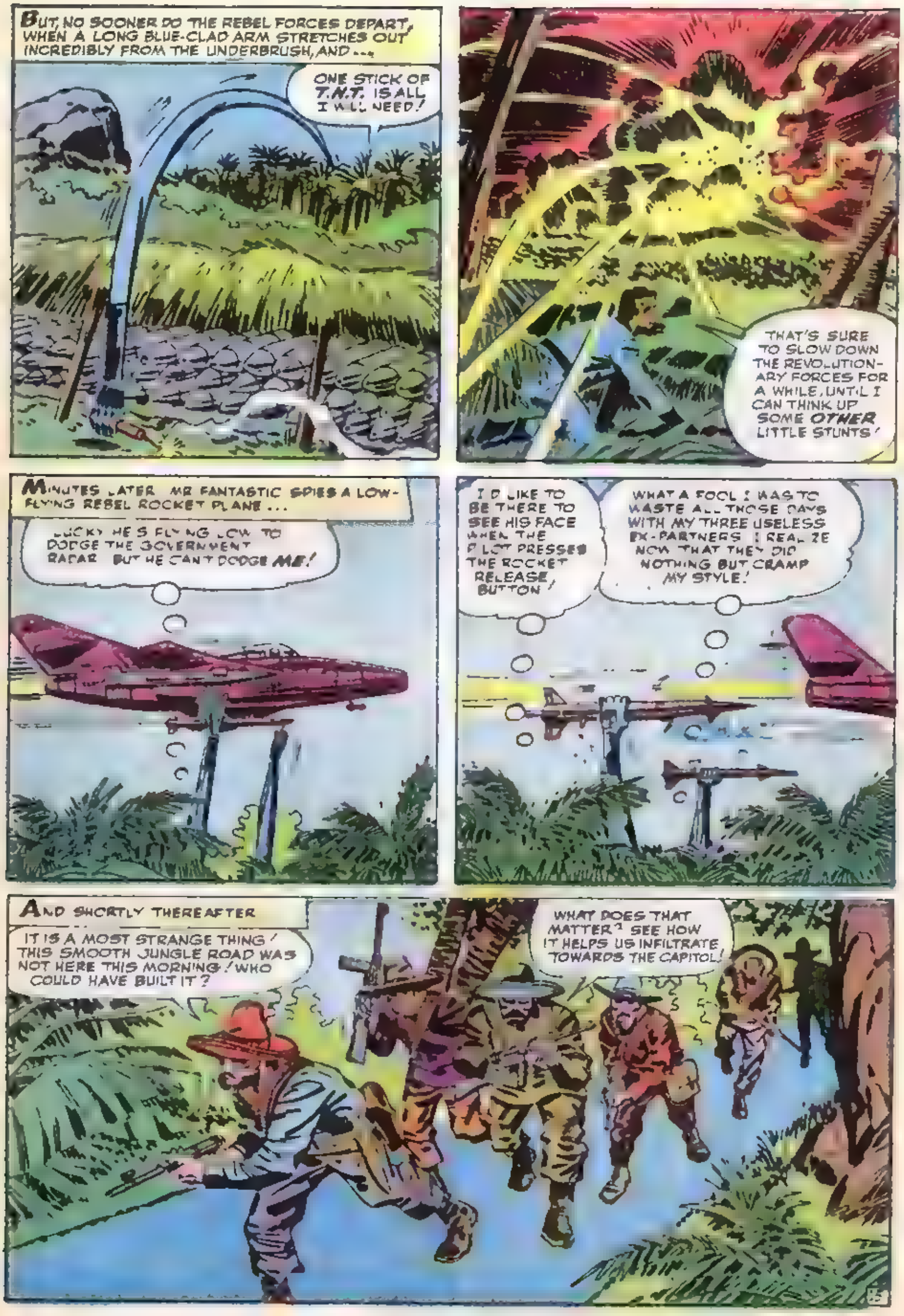
BUT, NO SOONER DO THE REBEL FORCES DEPART, WHEN A LONG BLUE-CLAD ARM STRETCHES OUT INCREDIBLY FROM THE UNDERBRUSH, AND ...
ONE STICK OF T.N.T. IS ALL I WILL NEED!
THAT'S SURE TO SLOW DOWN THE REVOLUTIONARY FORCES FOR A WHILE, UNTIL I CAN THINK UP SOME OTHER LITTLE STUNTS!
MINUTES LATER, MR FANTASTIC SPIES A LOW-FLYING REBEL ROCKET PLANE ...
LUCKY HE'S FLYING LOW TO DODGE THE GOVERNMENT RADAR. BUT HE CAN'T DODGE ME!
I'D LIKE TO BE THERE TO SEE HIS FACE WHEN THE PILOT PRESSES THE ROCKET RELEASE BUTTON!
WHAT A FOOL I WAS TO WASTE ALL THOSE DAYS WITH MY THREE USELESS EX-PARTNERS! I REALIZE NOW THAT THEY DID NOTHING BUT CRAMP MY STYLE!
AND SHORTLY THEREAFTER
IT IS A MOST STRANGE THING! THIS SMOOTH JUNGLE ROAD WAS NOT HERE THIS MORNING! WHO COULD HAVE BUILT IT?
WHAT DOES THAT MATTER? SEE HOW IT HELPS US INFILTRATE TOWARDS THE CAPITOL!
5

BUT SUDDENLY, THE MYSTERIOUS "ROAD" BEGINS TO HEAVE AND SWELL AS THOUGH IMBUED WITH A LIFE OF ITS OWN!
HERE'S ONE SQUAD OF REBELS THAT WON'T BE BACK FOR A WHILE!
FLEE FOR YOUR LIVES! THE ROAD IS BEWITCHED!
MADRE DIOS! RUN! RUN! WE ARE DOOMED!
IT WAS OBLIGING OF THEM TO LEAVE THEIR GUNS BEHIND!
HERE ARE A FEW MORE THAT WILL NEVER BE USED AGAINST SAN GUSTO!
HEAD FOR THE BORDER IF YOU VALUE YOUR LIVES!
UP TILL NOW, ALL I'VE DONE HAS BEEN KID STUFF!
IT'S TIME I BUCKLED DOWN AND REALLY GAVE A LITTLE DEMONSTRATION OF WHAT MR. FANTASTIC CAN DO WHEN HE'S FIGHTING MAD!
AND THEN, WHILE PLANNING HIS NEXT MOVE, REED RICHARDS MAKES A FATEFUL DISCOVERY...
A RAY MACHINE OF SOME SORT! SENDING HIGH-POTENCY BEAMS INTO THE AIR!
THE MAIN SECTION IS BURIED BELOW GROUND. I'LL JUST REACH DOWN AND PROBE FOR ITS SOURCE OF POWER!

SECONDS LATER, THE COSTUMED CRUSADER DISCOVERS A HIDDEN PASSAGEWAY, LEADING TO A DARK UNDERGROUND CHAMBER...
THERE'S MORE TO THIS REVOLUTION THAN MEETS THE EYE... AND I SUSPECT I'LL FIND THE ANSWER DOWN THERE!
STRANGE ..I CAN HEAR A PULSATING THROB THROUGH THIS WALL... LIKE THE DEEP, INCESSANT HUM OF SOME MIGHTY MACHINE!
AND THEN, WITHOUT WARNING...
NERVE GAS VAPORS! CAN'T ESCAPE! I-I'M TRAPPED!
WE GOT HIM!!
IN A SEMI-PARALYZED STATE, DUE TO THE POTENT NERVE GAS, REED IS BROUGHT FACE TO FACE WITH THE HATE-MONGER ONCE MORE!
I KNEW IT WAS ONLY A MATTER OF TIME BEFORE YOU'D STUMBLE ACROSS MY HATE-RAY MACHINE!
AND NOW THAT YOU ARE TRAPPED, I SHALL SHOW YOU THE FATE THAT AWAITS MANKIND, BEFORE I HAVE YOU DESTROYED!
OBSERVE HOW MY HATE-RAY MACHINE DERIVES ITS MATCHLESS POWER BY BOUNCING A BEAM TO THE MOON AND BACK... A BEAM WHICH CAN REACH ANY PLACE ON EARTH!
NO WONDER EARTH'S TIDES WERE ABNORMAL LATELY! THE HATE-MONGER HAS BEEN AFFECTING THE MOON'S GRAVITATIONAL PULL!
THIS SMALL, PITIFUL NATION WAS JUST A TEST FOR ME! NOW THAT I SEE HOW EFFECTIVE MY HATE RAY IS, I SHALL BLANKET THE WORLD WITH IT! I SHALL TURN FRIEND AGAINST FRIEND, NEIGHBOR AGAINST NEIGHBOR!
JUST AS HE TURNED THE FANTASTIC FOUR AGAINST EACH OTHER! BUT.. WHAT IS HIS PURPOSE?? WHO IS HE??

ONLY I SHALL REMAIN IMPERVIOUS TO THE HATE-RAY... FOR ONLY I POSSESS THE ANTIDOTE! THUS, I SHALL CONTROL THE HATERS... AND EVENTUALLY, THE ENTIRE PLANET!
LISTEN! THE SOUND OF RACING FOOTSTEPS!!
WAH-HOO!!!
HANG ON, RICHARDS! OL' FURY IS HERE! JUST LIKE OL' TIMES!
OKAY, YOU HOODED CORNBALL! GIVE RICHARDS THE ANTI-DOTE TO YOUR NERVE GAS... AND TO THE HATE RAY, BEFORE I REALLY GET MAD!
DON'T SHOOT! DON'T SHOOT!
I WILL DO AS YOU SAY!
THE C.I.A. HAS BEEN WISE TO YOU ALL ALONG, CHUM! WE KNEW WHAT YOU WERE UP TO! BUT WE COULDN'T INTERFERE IN ANOTHER NATION'S AFFAIRS! BUT WHEN YOU START MESSIN' WITH AMERICANS, THAT'S DIFFERENT!
A PITY YOU ARE TOO SQUEAMISH TO SHOOT A NOW-DEFENSELESS MAN! FOR I SHALL YET LIVE TO DESTROY YOU ALL!
SIXTY SECONDS AFTER SWALLOWING THE ANTIDOTE PILL...
NICK, YOU OL' HOUND DOG! I FEEL LIKE MYSELF AGAIN! THE HATRED IS ALL GONE!
OKAY OKAY! QUIT SLOBBERIN' OVER ME, PAL, OR I'LL PUSH YOU UNDER THAT BLASTED MACHINE AGAIN! WE STILL GOT SOME MOPPIN' UP TO DO!
BUT, DURING THE BRIEF SECONDS THAT THEIR ATTENTION WAVERED, THE HATE-MONGER PRESSES A NEARBY BUTTON, AND...
HE TRICKED US! HE LOWERED A WALL OF BULLET-PROOF GLASS!
IT WON'T SAVE HIM FOR LONG, NICK!

WE ARE SAFE FOR THE PRESENT, BUT THOSE TWO ARE DANGEROUS FOES!
BAH! THEY ARE NO MATCH FOR THE HATE-MONGER! THEY HAVE MERELY CAUSED ME TO SPEED UP MY TIME-TABLE! NOW I SHALL BLANKET THE WHOLE PLANET WITH MY HATE-RAY!
I GRABBED THIS VIAL OF ANTIDOTE CAPSULES, NICK! I'VE GOT TO FORCE BEN, SUE, AND JOHNNY TO TAKE THEM SOMEHOW!
OKAY, BOY SCOUT! YOU DO THAT LITTLE THING! MEANWHILE, I'LL STAY ON THE HATE-MONGER'S TRAIL, UNTIL I CAN PUT HIM AND HIS BULLY-BOYS AWAY FOR GOOD!
A SHORT TIME LATER...
AT LAST! THERE'S THE TORCH AT THE HEAD OF A BAND OF REBELS!
HE'S STILL UNDER THE EFFECT OF THE HATE-RAY, SO WHEN HE LEARNED THAT I'M ON THE SIDE OF THE GOVERNMENT TROOPS, NATURALLY HIS HATRED OF ME MADE HIM JOIN THE REBELS!
UH-OH! THE SHARP-EYED KID SPOTTED ME!
HOLD IT JOHNNY! I WANNA TALK TO YOU!
MISTER MY TALK'N DAYS ARE OVER! I'LL TEACH YOU TO TRY TO STEAL OUR POGO PLANE AWAY FROM US!
YOU TALK PRETTY BIG WITH THAT FLAME OF YOURS GOING FOR YOU! HOW ABOUT DOUSING IT AND FIGHTING ME MAN-TO-MAN?
IT'LL BE A PLEASURE, WISE GUY! THE THING TAUGHT ME ENOUGH ABOUT FIGHTING TO MOP UP THE PLACE WITH YOU!
FLAME OFF!
HEY!! YOU CRUMMY CHEAT! IF I'M NOT USING MY FLAME, YOU CAN'T STRETCH! I SHOULDA KNOWN I COULDN'T TRUST YOU!
SORRY, LITTLE FRIEND, IT'S FOR YOUR OWN GOOD! SWALLOW THIS!
19

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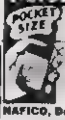
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REED, I- I FEEL FUNNY! I DON'T HATE YOU ANYMORE! I MUSTA BEEN NUTS TO TRY TO FIGHT YOU!
FORGET IT, LAD! IT WAS NOT YOUR FAULT! IT WAS THE HATE-RAY THAT AFFECTED US!
HERE COMES THE THING! NOW DO AS I SAY, QUICK!
HELP ME, BEN! HE'S TRYIN' TO KILL ME! HELP!
YOU SKINNY CREEP! I'LL TEACH YA TO PICK ON A KID!
AT THAT SPLIT-SECOND, REED RELEASES THE TORCH AND JOHNNY FLAMES ON, HURLING A FLAMING LOOP AROUND THE STARTLED THING!
GOOD WORK, JOHNNY! I KNEW HE'D OPEN HIS MOUTH IN SURPRISE!
HEY, DIDJA LOSE YOUR MARBLES, HOT-HEAD?
THEN, MR. FANTASTIC MOVES WITH DAZZLING SPEED, BEFORE THE THING CAN CLOSE HIS MOUTH!
A FELLA COULD DROP SOMETHING IN YOUR MOUTH, BENJAMIN, OL' BUDDY, WITH HIS EYES CLOSED!
WHAT IN SAM HILL'S GOIN' ON AROUND HERE? WHOSE SIDE IS THAT BLAZING BRAT ON ANYWAY??! ...GLOOMP!!
FOR THE LUVVA PETE! ALL OF A SUDDEN I DON'T WANNA PULVERIZE YA! I WANT US TO BE PARDS AGAIN! THIS IS NUTTY!
I'LL EXPLAIN EVERYTHING LATER, OLD FRIEND! RIGHT NOW, WE'VE GOT TO FIND SUE AND GIVE HER AN ANTIDOTE PILL!
HOW'LL WE DO IT, REED? SHE'S INVISIBLE! SHE COULD BE ANYWHERE!
RIGHT, LAD! BUT CHANCES ARE SHE'S IN THIS AREA, WONDERING WHAT TO DO NEXT! SO, I'LL JUST BLANKET THE AREA WITH MY OWN BODY, AND SEE WHAT HAPPENS!
LOOK! THAT SHAPE OVER THERE! I'LL BE A MONKEY'S UNCLE! HE GOT HER!
BEN! JOHNNY! DON'T JUST STAND THERE, YOU FOOLS! SAVE ME FROM REED!
EASY, KID! I DON'T KNOW WHAT'S IN THOSE PILLS, BUT TAKE ONE! IT'S GOOD FOR WHAT AILS YA!
NO. NO! STOP! GO AWAY! I HATE YOU! I HATE YOU ALL!
EASY HONEY YOU'LL FEEL DIFFERENT IN A MINUTE!

MEANWHILE, AT THE HUGE DYNAMO WHICH SUPPLIES THE POWER FOR THE HATE-MONGER'S H-RAY, NICK FURY FIGHTS A DESPERATE BATTLE AGAINST IMPOSSIBLE ODDS!
IF THEY INCREASE THE INTENSITY OF THAT GIZMO, THE WHOLE WORLD WILL BE BLANKETED WITH HATE-RAYS! BUT I CAN'T HOLD 'EM OFF MUCH LONGER. THERE GOES THE LAST OF MY AMMO!
HIS GUN IS EMPTY! SEIZE HIM! SLAY HIM FOR DEFYING THE HATE-MONGER!
DON'T SHOOT! HE OUT-MANEUVERED US! HE PLUNGED INTO OUR MIDST! IF WE FIRE, WE'LL HIT EACH OTHER! UGH!!
DON'T COUNT OL' FURY OUT YET, YOU CRUMB-BUMS! NOW I'LL SHOW YA HOW WE USED TO DO IT IN THE HOWLIN' COMMANDOS!
WELL, LOOK WHO'S HERE! IT'S ABOUT TIME! YOU JOES TAKE SOME COFFEE BREAKS!
DIDN'T THINK WE'D LET YOU HAVE ALL THE FUN, DIDJA, SONNY??
HURRY, BEN! WE'VE GOT TO FIND THE HATE-MONGER!
OVER HERE, REEDY-BOY! IT LOOKS LIKE I WIN THE TREASURE HUNT TODAY! THERE'S OUR PIGEON NOW!
IT'S THE TORCH! I'LL GET HIM!
DON'T WASTE YOUR BULLETS, FOOL! HIS FLAME WILL MELT THEM! I'LL STOP HIM FOR GOOD WITH A DOUBLE DOSE OF MY HATE-RAY... LIKE THIS...
UH-UH BLUE EYES! NOT THIS TIME! NOT WITH THE FANTASTIC FOUR FIGHTING AS A TEAM AGAIN!
WHO...? WHA...? BLAST IT! IT'S THE INVISIBLE GIRL! SHE RUINED MY AIM!
AND, AS FATE WOULD HAVE IT, THE HATE-RAY BLAST INTENDED FOR THE TORCH, STRIKES THE HATE-MONGER'S OWN MEN, AFTER HAVING BEEN DEFLECTED BY SUE STORM!
THE ACCURSED HATE-MONGER IS TO BLAME FOR ALL THIS!
BECAUSE OF HIM WE ARE FIGHTING THE ALL-POWERFUL FANTASTIC FOUR!
21.

AND THEN, BEFORE ANYONE CAN RAISE A HAND TO SAVE THE MASKED MASTER OF HATE...
NO, YOU CAN'T! YOU MUSTN'T! I-I'M YOUR LEADER... YOU MUST OBEY ME! OBEY ME!! UGH!!
FAREWELL, HATE-MONGER!
WHAT DO YA KNOW? IT'S LIKE A SCENE RIGHT OUT OF A MOVIE! HE USED HATRED AS A WEAPON AND IN THE END IT WAS THAT VERY WEAPON THAT DESTROYED HIM!
LET'S GET HIS HOOD OFF, NICK! I AM ANXIOUS TO SEE WHO HE REALLY IS.
WAIT FOR ME, YOU GUYS! I WANNA SEE, TOO! I'LL HAVE ALL HIS LITTLE PLAYMATES CORRALLED IN A FEW SECS!
IT ALL SEEMS LIKE A STRANGE, MAD DREAM!
AND THEN, AS THE CONCEALING HOOD IS LIFTED...
IT CAN'T BE! IT JUST AIN'T POSSIBLE!
AND YET, IT FITS! IT ALL TIES IN!
BUT HE'S SUPPOSED TO HAVE BEEN KILLED YEARS AGO! THE WHOLE WORLD THOUGHT HE WAS DEAD!
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! I JUST CAN'T!
HE LOOKS JUST LIKE HIS PICTURES!
ADOLF HITLER! THE MAD FUEHRER, THE MOST EVIL HUMAN BEING THE WORLD HAS EVER KNOWN!
THE HATE-RAY MUST HAVE BEEN ONE OF THE LAST ACHIEVEMENTS OF HIS ENSLAVED NAZI SCIENTISTS!
ACTUALLY, WE'LL NEVER KNOW WHETHER HE WAS THE REAL HITLER, OR ONE OF THE MANY DOUBLES THE FEUHRER WAS REPORTED TO HAVE!
WHAT'S THE DIFF, PAL? THE MAIN THING IS THAT HIM AND HIS ROTTEN HATE RAY ARE KAPUT... AND THIS TIME, IT'S FOR KEEPS!
AND FINALLY... ON THE WAY BACK TO THE STATES...
THIS IS FURY CALLIN' THE C.I.A.! OUR LITTLE CAPER IS FINISHED IN SAN GUSTO!
...THE FANTASTIC FOUR WILL EXPLAIN WHEN THEY GET BACK. I AIN'T MUCH ON MAKIN' SPEECHES!
UNTIL MEN TRULY LOVE EACH OTHER, REGARDLESS OF RACE, CREED, OR COLOR, THE HATE-MONGER WILL STILL BE UNDEFEATED! LET'S NEVER FORGET THAT!
AND REED RICHARDS' WORDS NEVER SHALL BE FORGOTTEN! NOT WHILE THE STARS AND STRIPES STILL WAVE! NOT WHILE AMERICA ENDURES!
The End
22

Address YOUR letters to:
LEE and KIRBY
FANTASTIC FOUR
THIRD FLOOR
655 MADISON AVE.
NEW YORK 21, N. Y.

FANTASTIC FAN PAGE 4

Dear Stan and Jack,

As a 19 year old college student, I thought that my comic book days were about 8 years behind me. Well, it just isn't so. A month or so back some of the fellows in my dorm came across a copy of a FANTASTIC FOUR, and believe it or not, it started a fad. Other comics may show up in the "libraries" which are floating around the dorm, but take my word for it, yours are the first ones grabbed After I've been studying for mid-semester tests I've found the best way to completely unwind is by reading a FANTASTIC FOUR comic. Either I'm going to be very relaxed with your comics in the future or I'll be a candidate for the Happy Academy. Keep up the good work!

Mike Cafferata
(and the Third Floor Gang)
Shimer College
Mt. Carroll, Ill.

Thanks for the kind words, Mike. We're still waiting to see what happens when someone tries to use the FF for a book report!

Dear Pinnacle-of-Perfection Comic Book People·

As comic bookdom's severest critic, here are some fan-type comments Granted, Sue Storm adds a "feminine touch" to your stories, but when will someone admit that she is also a valuable member of the team? (Also I'm curious to know if the Hulk really would have destroyed her along with the others. I can't believe it, but then, I'm a lousy judge of character). If you change Reed one whit. I'll be disgusted. Ben is perfect. Johnny Storm can and should jump in the lake. He's too conceited! You fell down on Thor. I hate to see anyone muff a potentially good plot. He'd be much better if he were more like the original mythological god. I'm still waiting to read, "You Jane. Me Thor," and "Aw, don't be a Thorhead!"

Jerise Newton
Rt. 3 Box 522
Plocerville, Calif.

But we never THOR the original, Jerise!

(Editor's Note: The following item is reproduced, in condensed form, from a popular fanzine published in South Africa.)

We salute Stan Lee and the Marvel Comics Group, for presenting a line of comic books that are not only interesting and entertaining, but which become collectors items within just a few short months of their release; for establishing a group of heroes that are truly different, and pitting them against real-life villains; for providing an abundance of human interest in their stories, and instead of pretending it does not exist, setting the Marvel heroes against the worst foe of our time—Communism; and for giving credit, where credit is due, to all those responsible for the production of a story!

John Wright
THE KOMIX #2
P.O. Box 1277
Port Elizabeth
South Africa

Dear Stan and Jack,

FANTASTIC FOUR #17 kept within your precedents of action, humor, intergroup clashes, and continuity, so there is nothing one can say to criticize it. I can only express some opinions of some trivial matters such as: 1) Melodramatic language—I'm getting a little sick of the way Dr. Doom is always shaking his fist, and swearing revenge on the F.F.—also the cliche, "you dare speak thus to me?" How about some new lines, Stan? But wait! What's this one on your latest cover? Oh no, that accursed word "super"! How could you! I trust that I will never see that again in your mag. 2) Titles—It seems as if you can't decide on one title. Is issue #17 "In the Clutches of Dr. Doom" or "Defeated by Dr. Doom"? Is issue #16 "The Return of Dr. Doom" or "The Micro-World of Dr. Doom"? The cover title always contradicts the splash-page title. How about a little consistency?

Andy Wackstrom
249 Elm Ave.
Glen Riddle, Pa.

We write the story first, Andy, and then do the cover. Sometimes, we forget the story title while lettering the cover, and haven't time to track it down. That's why the titles might vary. Anyway, what's in a name? What OTHER mags give you TWO titles for the price of one?'

Dear Stan and Jack,

SGT. FURY is definitely one of the most entertaining magazines around. I'm glad to see that they are integrated religiously, nationally, and racially. Most companies shy away from such things because of the unfortunately justified idea that they will step on someone's toes by portraying such real life mixtures. I salute Marvel for their efforts in the cause of Brotherhood! Also, I predict that Dr. Strange will do for the necromantic profession what Kildare and Casey have done for the medical!

Paul Moslander
1206 31 Avenue
San Mateo, Cal.

Maybe Vince Edwards will play Doctor Strange—HE doesn't smile much, either!

Dear Stan and Jack,

Just reading your FANTASTIC FOUR #17. Well, I am a 55 year old grandmother of 13 grandchildren. After working in a State Hospital for 8 hours, I find it relaxing to sit down with a cold drink and your comic book. So the man who is 31 years old doesn't have to worry! I'm an older kid than he is!

Mrs. P. Piccirillo
17 Mukle St
Shelton, Conn.

Remember our search for our oldest reader? Well, as of now, it looks as though Mrs. Piccirillo gets the honor! Runners-up include: Mrs. Hanson, 45, Milpitas, Cal.—Dick Austin, 42, Haliburton, Ont.—Mr. Scarborough, 41, Norfolk, Va.—Bill Brinkley, 36, Jacksonville, Fla. — and E. J. O'Donnell, 34, W. Hazelton, Pa. Congratulations to all of you wonderful young-in-heart fans!

Dear Stan and Jack,

No one ever mentions your Westerns, so I will say something now. They are the only Westerns I ever buy! They're great!

Donald Markstein
2232 Wirth Place
New Orleans, La.

Thanks for reminding us, Don! We sometimes neglect our cowboy comics ourselves! Let's see now, there's KID COLT, OUTLAW . . . and—eh HEY! What ARE the other two titles??

Dear Stan and Jack,

Thanks, guys, for the wonderful job you and your staff are doing for comics. Thanks for, as Ronn Foss put it, your "warm, wonderful messages". Thanks for starting the MARVEL AGE OF COMICS, a new insight into imagination, wonder, and dreams. The illustrations on p. 22 of the story in FF #17 took me back, somehow, and made me

CONTINUED

think of the GOLDEN Age of Comics.

Danny DeVere
59 Lakeside Ave.
Haskell, N. J.

We were there right in the middle of the so-called GOLDEN AGE OF COMICS, Dan. Yet, we must say in all sincerity that we feel TODAY'S mags have even MORE excitement and originality to offer. Stay with us and see if you don't agree!

Dear Stan and Jack,

I have just finished reading the "Fantastic Four in the Clutches of Dr. Doom" which I enjoyed very much. As everyone knows, the F.F. is the best mag you can buy, but the main reason I like the F.F. is due to the Thing. Why? I stand 6 ft. 2 inches, weigh 211 pounds, and my age is forty-two. I used to be an amateur wrestler and I love to see the Thing go into action, which always reminds me of the good old days. So keep up the good work, fellows, for I intend to stick around awhile and enjoy life reading your mags.

Dick Austin
Haliburton, Ontario
Canada

The Thing just read your letter, Dick, and he said: "6 feet 2 inches tall and he only weighs 211 pounds??! The poor guy must be ANEMIC!"

Dear Stan and Jack,

I agree with other fans that the F.F. has no competitors. Those who would claim to be are simply living in a world of sickening dreams. I realize that you guys have your ups and downs, but none of your lowest downs can be matched by anyone else's ups! But to cover issue #17: I like the way you pick up from issue to issue. Such continuity not only adds to the quality, but also to the realism. As for those scenes where Dr. Doom jumped and fell—great! And a suggestion: I think realism would become even better if one of their regular villains—Dr. Doom—were to die. The "regular villain" doll: You wind it up and it keeps coming back and coming back and coming back... Dr. Doom, if he were to die now, would serve as the greatest villain ever. He had the means to defeat the F.F., but he used those means incorrectly and died as a result. The best part of the issue was the SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION, at the end of the letters page. I quote you: "... Read our mags, read our competitors' mags, but READ!" That is the boldest, most tremendous statement I've ever seen in a comic mag. Never before has any comic dared to add a plug for its competitors.

Mike Randall
929 Riley
Atchison, Kansas

Aw, we don't mind doing it! Maybe someday someone will say something nice about US! As for Doc Doom going to his eternal reward, we'll play it safe and wait till we receive the usual avalanche of opinions in the mail. (One or two postcards, most likely!)

Dear Stan and Jack,

Just a note to tell you how we Scotsmen dig your magazine. We think your new-type comic book heroes are simply fabulous. Where I work the fellows have a regular order placed with the bookshop down the street for FANTASTIC FOUR, ANT-MAN, etc. What we'd like to know is if your F.F. ANNUAL will be on sale in Scotland, as we're all dying to read it. Also, here's a song for Ben Grimm: "... I was just one of those things...!"

George Christie
119, Balurie Drive
Dundee, Scotland

Sure it'll be on sale in bonnie Scotland, George laddie! And Benjamin thanks you for the song title, but says "Next time send money!"

Dear Stan and Jack,

Your mags are a landmark in comic history and will always be remembered as being among the greatest. There are several things in your overall policy that have great appeal to me as a fan of the present day comics. You are always forging ahead with new ideas, mags, heroes, and concepts. This summer alone we have the F.F. ANNUAL, the AVENGERS, and the X-MEN—is there no end to these wonders? Also, a most important factor is reader consideration. You carefully consider reader suggestions. You promote fan clubs and fan publications. Above all you strive to give your readers the best mags with the highest quality artwork and stories possible. "The Marvel Age of Comics" is truly upon us, and for this you are to be commended greatly—and for this, I am exceedingly grateful.

Jim Hamilton
219 E. Temple Ave.
College Park, Ga.

Boy, letters like yours, Jimmy, make us feel as though we're performing public services! Maybe the government will take the hint and make us tax-exempt!

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENTS SECTION:

- **Don't miss SUSPENSE #48! We've changed Iron Man completely! You won't recognize the ol' bullet head! We can't wait till we hear how you like him!**
- **And here's another surprise—we're trying something new in ASTONISH #50! We feel that the Giant Man story is so terrific, that we decided to devote TWO issues to it! So it will be continued in ASTONISH #51! Let us know if you'd like to see more two-part tales like this one!**
- **FANZINE PLUG. Hey! We're getting famous! G. B. Love, editor of the ROCKET BLAST, has published a special issue devoted entirely to the early history of the MARVEL Group! You can write to him at 9875 S.W. 212 St., Miami 57, Florida, for further details.**
- **So far, our readers' opinions on DR. STRANGE are almost unanimously IN FAVOR of the bewhiskered bewitcher! So, it looks as if we're gonna be stuck with him for a while—in STRANGE TALES, as if you didn't know!**
- **We've received hundreds of letters from FF Fan Clubs which are sprouting up all over! We apologize for not listing them but we just haven't the room. However, we get a real kick out of your letters telling of your activities, and we're tremendously proud of your loyalty and enthusiasm. Our hats are off to you FF Fan Clubbers—wherever you may be!**
- **PERSONAL NOTE: Writer-editor Stan Lee has done it again! His recent satire mag "YOU DON'T SAY!" was such a smash hit, that a NEW ish entitled "MORE YOU DON'T SAY!" is now on sale! If you've an extra 50¢ in your jeans, and if you dig sophisticated humor, don't miss Stan's latest! Hint—it makes a great gift for your parents, too. Okay—that was a real plug! We admit it! Stan deserves it!**
- **A word to the wise: SPIDER-MAN #7 features the Return Of The Vulture! If you can still find a copy left—grab it! And STRANGE TALES #115 features another of Spider-Man's ex-villains—the Sand-Man! Wait till you see him battling the Torch!**
- **As we write this, the first issues of the X-MEN and the AVENGERS are just going on sale! We'll tell you what the first batch of fan mail says about them next ish. We suspect you're as eager as WE are to learn how the two newest MARVEL mags will be received!**
- **COMING ATTRACTIONS: There are two treats in store for you next ish! You will see the NEW powers of the Invisible Girl, and you will thrill to the return of the FF's first super-foe—the mysterious Mole Man! Better reserve your copy now!**
- **A final note—as many fans have already observed, we're trying to bring new excitement, new glamor, and greater quality to comic magazines. Sure, we'll hit a clinker occasionally, and we know you'll tell us about it when we do, but we want to promise you that we'll keep trying! Trying to bring you thrills, surprises, and honest-to-gosh reading pleasure such as you've never found in comics before! That is our pledge to you in this, THE MARVEL AGE OF COMICS!**

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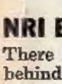
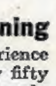
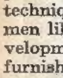


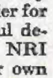
EARL GROSS, Hanover, Ont., has spare-time Radio-TV service shop. Does work for four dealers. W. F. KLINE, Cincinnati, Ohio, went from factory laborer to his own business with sales of $158,000 in one year.



F. W. COX, Hollywood, Calif., averaged $150 a month spare time while training, now has his own full time business.



E. DUANE BITNER, Northfield, N.J., works on missiles. He says, "NRI training gave me the biggest boost in my life."



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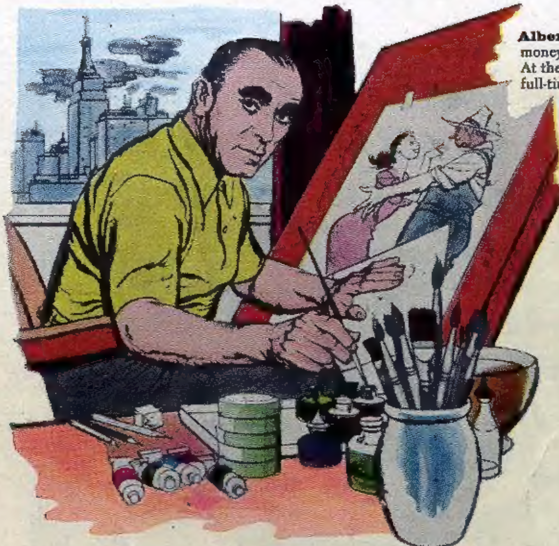

Albert Dorne — probably the greatest money-maker in the history of commercial art. At the height of his career, he began a full-time search for people who like to draw.

He's Looking for People Who Like to Draw

TODAY HUNDREDS of men and women who never thought they could be artists are working happily at easels and drawing boards, making pictures, and getting well paid for it. They all can thank Albert Dorne, a famous artist who devotes almost his full time to helping other people become artists.

Some of the people Dorne has helped

Herb Smith was a payroll clerk. Soon after he started studying with us, he landed an art job with a large printing firm. This was four years ago; today he's head artist for the same firm.

John Busketta is another. He was a pipefitter's helper in a big gas company. Today he still works for the same company, but as an artist in the advertising department, with a big increase in pay.

Harriet Kuzniewski was bored with an "ordinary" job before she heard of Albert Dorne. Today she does high-style fashion illustration in New York.

With the right training, Wanda Pickulski gave up her typing job to become fashion artist for a local department store.

John Whitaker of Memphis was an airline clerk two years ago. Recently he won a national cartooning contest and was signed to do a newspaper comic strip.

Long before Albert Dorne started looking for people who like to draw, they came to him for advice and help. Since he alone could only help a few of these people he called together America's most successful artists —men like Norman Rockwell, Jon Whitcomb. Stevan Dohanos and Al Parker.

A Plan to Help Others

He said: "All over America, there are people who like to draw, who could be turned into good artists. Why can't we give these people the training they need—including all the trade secrets and know-how we've learned over the years? I'm suggesting a new kind of school—a home-study art school that would give talented people the best professional art training, no matter where they live."

The famous artists agreed. Taking time from their busy careers, they spent several years creating a remarkable series of art lessons covering every aspect of drawing and painting. They illustrated their lessons with over 5,000 "here's-how" illustrations. The lessons start from scratch and cover every skill a top artist needs. Finally, the famous artists developed a wonderful way to give each student personal correction and advice all through his training.

Albert Dorne is not surprised by the success of his students. "The art field is growing. We keep getting calls from all over the country, asking us for practical, well-trained students who can step into full-time or part-time art jobs."

Famous Artists Talent Test

To find others with art talent worth developing, the famous artists created a 12-page talent test. Thousands paid $1 for this test, but now the School offers it free and will grade it free. If you show talent on the test, you will be eligible for training by the School. No obligation. Simply mail coupon. It might be your first step to an exciting, well-paid career in art.

America's 12 Most Famous Artists

Norman Rockwell	Fred Ludekens
Jon Whitcomb	Ben Stahl
Al Parker	Robert Fawcett
Stevan Dohanos	Austin Briggs
George Giusti	Harold Von Schmidt
Peter Helck	Albert Dorne

Famous Artists Schools
Studio 5849, Westport, Conn.

I would like to find out whether I have art talent worth developing. Please send me, without obligation, your Famous Artists Talent Test.

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Miss *(please print)*

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County ________________ *State* ________

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